

May 29, 2007

The Honorable Michael Mauro
Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
L O C A L

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit Senate File 551, an Act relating to and making appropriations involving state government, by providing for agriculture, natural resources, and environmental protection. Senate File 551 is approved on this date, with the exception noted below, which I hereby disapprove.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Division XII, Section 50 in its entirety. This provision requires the director of a department or state agency included in Senate File 551 to examine employee telecommuting options, develop a telecommuter employment policy, and implement a plan designed to increase the number of telecommuting employees. Many departments maintain employee telecommuting policies currently. These policies and procedures have been in place for several years and are well established. The designated language in Section 50 directing a department or state agency to conduct an assessment of its telecommuting policy is duplicative and unnecessary and introduces a legislatively mandated management process into what is appropriately an executive branch decision. I will direct the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Management to review the current state government telecommuting policy and make recommendations for any improvements as part of our overall executive branch strategic planning process.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove of the designated item in accordance with Article III, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa. All other items in Senate File 551 are hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

Chester J. Culver
Governor

CJC:roo